

Committee on Public Health

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Bill No. 1254

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As a Massachusetts electrologist for the last 33 years, I have dedicated much of my time helping to improve the electrology industry nationwide. I felt compelled to come to Connecticut to support a group of electrologists who are desperate to improve and maintain their profession by offering additional technologies for safe and effective hair removal.

A Task Force committee has recently been formed by the State of Massachusetts to determine the requirements for laser training in all industries, including the electrology industry. This task force is represented by prominent physicians in the dermatology and medical esthetic industry, as well as by professionals from other industries such as nursing, esthetics, and other health care-related fields.

The general consensus of the Task Force committee is that electrologists are better qualified to treat hair removal than any other health care profession. The Task force has stated that electrologists are held in the highest regard due to their ability to determine which hair removal method is best suited to each consumer's unique requirements. Limiting the practice of laser/light hair removal to physicians does not stop complications. It does not matter if you are a doctor, RN, PA, or an electrologist-- the only way to effectively guard against unnecessary complications is through proper training.

Electrologists in Massachusetts have been offering laser/light in their practices for the past seven years, and in most cases without a medical director on site. There have been no reported cases of injury during that period of time. We are confident that the task force will agree that with proper training, electrologists can offer laser/light to their clients in a safe and effective manner and without requiring that a medical director be on site.

States that restrict electrologists from using laser/light procedures for hair removal are effectively limiting the available options for the consumer. Connecticut electrologists have been restricted from offering full service hair removal to the consumer over the last few years, and this has placed the industry in a vulnerable position where their only alternative will be to shut down their businesses.

Like electrology, laser/light hair removal treatments have certain limitations, but together they offer complete satisfaction to the consumer. It is time that the legislature looks at laser/light for hair removal as simply another modality that the consumer can choose as an option that can be delivered by a professionally trained electrologist.

Respectfully Submitted,

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